

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 19591 01 OF 02 201735Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02

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USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OIC-02 /078 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6946

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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PAGE 02 BONN 19591 01 OF 02 201735Z

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 19591

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW, ILO, UR

SUBJECT: DGB VIEWS ON THE PAN EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE, THE EC, EAST-WEST AUTOMOBILE CONFERENCE, THE ETUC AND EAST-WEST EXCHANGE.

1. SUMMARY. DGB OFFICIALS SAY THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO CHANNEL SOVIET INITIATIVES ON THE PAN EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE IN GENEVA INTO THE ILO FRAMEWORK, TO ENCOURAGE THE BRITISH TUC TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EC, TO OPPOSE EAST-WEST AUTOMOBILE WORKER UNION CONFERENCES, TO DELAY ETUC ACTION ON THE FRENCH COMMUNIST CGT APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATION, AND TO LIMIT EXCHANGES WITH THE SOVIET AUCCTU PRIMARILY TO THE AFFILIATED INDUSTRIAL UNIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SOVIETS HAVE MADE REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO DRAFT THE AGENDA AND THE COMMUNIQUE FOR THE NEXT PAN EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN GENEVA FEB 28 - MAR 1, 1975 AND ARE TRYING TO HAVE POLITICAL AS WELL AS TECHNICAL LABOR SUBJECTS INCLUDED. IN THIS EFFORT THE SOVIETS HAVE IN RECENT MONTHS PURSUED MANY BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH OTHER NATIONAL TRADE UNION FEDERATION LEADERS. RECENTLY AUCCTU PRESIDENT ALEXANDER SHELEPIN SUGGESTED TO THE DGB THAT THE AGENDA BE DRAFTED BY LEN MURRAY OF THE TUC. HOWEVER THE DGB IS ATTEMPTING TO FRUSTRATE SOVIET EFFORTS BY DISCOURAGING OTHER NATIONAL TRADE UNION FEDERATION LEADERS FROM BECOMING DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE. THEY HAVE INSTEAD INSISTED THAT ALL PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE BE MADE BY THE EUROPEAN WORKER MEMBERS OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY AMONG WHOM ARE GERD MUHR, DGB; P.T. PIMENOW, AUCCTU; C.T.H. PLANT, TUC; AND O. SUNDE, NORWEGIAN LO. THE SOVIETS HAVE ALSO PROPOSED THAT A SERIES OF SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

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PAGE 03 BONN 19591 01 OF 02 201735Z

ON PROBLEMS DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE BE HELD IN SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES AFTER THE GENEVA MEETING, AND THEY HAVE ALSO CALLED FOR ANOTHER CONFERENCE IN 1976 ON THE HUMANIZATION OF WORK. BUT DGB REPRESENTATIVES HAVE INSISTED THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO REPORT THE RESULTS OF THE FEBRUARY CONFERENCE TO THEIR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BEFORE ANY DECISIONS ON FUTURE MEETINGS CAN BE MADE. IN ANY EVENT, THE AGREED AGENDA FOR THE FEBRUARY CONFERENCE WILL

APPARENTLY INCLUDE SESSIONS ON THE HUMANIZATION OF WORK
AND ON POISONOUS SUBSTANCES, AND, ACCORDING TO THE DGB,
THE CONFERENCE WILL NOT BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

3. EUROPEAN COMMUNITY: UNFORTUNATELY THE TUC FORCED
THE BRITISH NATIONAL UNION OF MINeworkERS TO WITHDRAW
FROM THE EUROPEAN COAL COMMISSION AGAINST THE WISHES OF
NUM PRESIDENT JOE GORMLEY. THE DGB SENT A DELEGATION TO
MEET WITH TUC OFFICIALS MARCH 13-14 AND THROUGH THE
EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS AT VARIOUS LEVELS INTENDS TO
CONTINUE TO URGE THE TUC AND ITS AFFILIATES TO PARTICI-
PATE IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

4. EAST-WEST AUTOMOBILE CONFERENCE IN LONDON: THE DGB
METALWORKERS TURNED DOWN AN INVITATION TO ATTEND THIS
MEETING. HOWEVER, SOME WORKS COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM CER-
TAIN AUTOMOBILE FACTORIES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF LEFTIST
GROUPS MAY HAVE ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE ON A PERSONAL
BASIS.

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PAGE 01 BONN 19591 02 OF 02 201733Z

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PAGE 02 BONN 19591 02 OF 02 201733Z

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CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT FOR THE TIME BEING THERE IS SUFFICIENT SUPPORT WITHIN THE ETUC TO DEFER FAVORABLE ACTION ON THE APPLICATION OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST CGT FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ETUC. THE COMPROMISE ON THIS ISSUE BETWEEN THOSE FAVORING THE ADMISSION OF THE CGT, SUCH AS THE TUC AND THE SCANDINAVIANS, AND THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE ADMISSION OF THE CGT, SUCH AS THE DGB, MAY BE TO CONTINUE TO DELAY ACTION ON THIS APPLICATION. SO FAR THE ITALIAN CGIL APPEARS TO BE FOLLOWING THE GENERAL POLICY LINE OF THE ETUC AND HAS NOT TAKEN ANY ACTIONS OPPOSING DGB POLICY IN THE ETUC.

6. EAST-WEST EXCHANGE: THE EAST-WEST EXCHANGES CONTINUE. THE DIRECTOR OF THE DGB INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, ERWIN KRISTOFFERSEN, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE SOVIET UNION WHERE HE LECTURED AT AUCCTU TRADE UNION SCHOOLS. KRISTOFFERSEN USED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN THE DEVELOPMENT AND POLICIES OF THE DGB. THE PRINCIPAL

CONCERN OF SOME MEMBERS OF HIS AUDIENCES WAS THE DECISION OF THE FRG MINISTER PRESIDENTS PROHIBITING "RADICALS" FROM EMPLOYMENT IN THE CIVIL SERVICE. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT AUCCTU PRESIDENT SHELEPIN WILL VISIT THE FRG IN THE NEAR FUTURE. EXCHANGES OF DELEGATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET AUCCTU AND THE DGB MAY DECLINE IN 1975,BUT EXCHANGES BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE AFFILIATES WILL CONTINUE. THE INDIVIDUAL DGB 16 AFFILIATES WILL CONTINUE TO PLAN THEIR OWN PROGRAMS AND ONLY CONSULT WITH THE DGB ON PROBLEMS AS THEY ARISE.
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